

# **CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

## **DECEMBER 2000 COMMISSION MEETING**

### **SANTA BARBARA, CA**

**December 14, 2000**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Minutes from the November 16, 2000 Commission meeting were approved. These minutes have been posted on the State Commission's website ([www.ccfc.ca.gov](http://www.ccfc.ca.gov)) for review.
- The State Commission unanimously approved a new contract with California Shorthand Reporting for two years at a cost of \$110,000. The new contract starts January 2001 and expires in October 2002.
- The State Commission approved funding of up to \$1 million to design and implement a public opinion and opinion leader survey. This survey will contribute to the need for systematic, comprehensive research to help us better understand levels of public and opinion leader awareness about child care and early child development, and to build support for the array of public policies so critical to meeting the needs of younger children and their families.
- The State Commission approved funding of up to \$250,000 to procure various library services. These services would be available to all State Commission staff and Commissioners.
- The State Commission approved (1) the allocation of \$6 million for the period 7/1/00 to 6/30/01 for the child care compensation matching funds pilot program, including \$500,000 for statewide evaluation; and (2) release of a request for funds (RFF). All counties in California have needs related to high staff turnover and

poor quality early care. In an effort to address this statewide need and develop an early care and education provider compensation/retention project, the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC) proposes a three-year matching fund pilot program with a strong evaluation component, consistent with the *State Commission 2000-2001 Objectives and Priorities*. Twenty-three County Children and Families Commissions responded to the “Letter of Intent” and requested a State Commission match for the first year of funding. County Commissions will submit a comprehensive application in year one, and in subsequent years continuation of funding will be based upon submission of required progress and expenditure reports and coordination with AB212 local initiatives. Further opportunities to participate in the pilot program will be announced in coming months.

- The Commission conducted a lengthy discussion about the Inclusion Specialists Initiative to improve families’ ability to locate and sustain quality child care and development services for children with disabilities and other special needs. Topics included the role and qualifications of the specialists, allocation formula for funds, placement, and training.

The Commissioners asked staff to prepare several options for approaching this initiative for further discussion during the February 2001 meeting.